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**The China Mail.**

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HONGKONG, SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1899.

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WHATEVER may be said of its lack either of public spirit or artistic taste, the non-Asiatic community in Hong-kong cannot be accused of a want of appreciation for athletic sports. Physical recreation, in all its forms, is indulged in to an extent which might almost justify its being described as a mania. Well, the lover of athletics will reply "if it is a mania, it is a beneficial one." And there can be no doubt that he is right. In an article which we reproduce from an Indian contemporary, there are some

serious reflections on the subject of race deterioration in England which might, at least, extend to the application of Hongkong. If it be true—and we fear there is hardly any room for doubt on the point—that the children of European parents born and bred in the tropics do show race deterioration, we should think the deteriorating influences could not be more effectually combated and minimised than by those invigorating physical exercises to which boys at home owe so much of their healthiness and 'grit.' Lord Harris, who speaks with authority on the subject, is addressing the members of a gymnastic institution at Bombay. He says: 'I have lately noticed that I detected a slight suggestion that there was too great a fondness for phlegma

sports amongst the young people of the Presidency. But I would say to you, if there is any idea of that kind existing, are you quite sure that those young men, whom it is thought are giving up too much time to athletic sports, would, if not so engaged, be better able to employ their time? This is a very modest plea for athletics; but it is nevertheless an effective one. In a climate like that of Hongkong, one might naturally suppose that there was greater danger of young men indulging in such sports, than that their indulging too much, and it is gratifying to find that they do not, and that they can keep an interest in athletics as does exist on the part of Young Hongkong. In the schools, Physical Education

receives a large share of attention, and every encouragement is given to the boys to take full advantage of it. The Government has recognised the desirability of providing the best possible facilities that can be given to the youth of the colony for engaging in outdoor games and sports, and the result is the recreation ground at the Happy Valley, where football and cricket and many other games are played. It is a pleasure to see that the younger members of our community, while the majority of gold miners who have done well with violent exercise. The Victoria Recreation Club fulfils, to a certain extent, the functions of what may be called an advanced school of physical education. The members have the privilege, if they choose to avail themselves of it, of

getting instruction from a thoroughly competent instructor in gymnastics, &c. There are abundant opportunities for boating, and these are largely taken advantage of. Up till quite recently the Club could boast of a fairly good swimming bath. The bath, indeed, is there still, but the water, because of the decay of the bath, has been converted into something like a cesspool, it is now practically useless. Swimming members, however, are in hopes that something will be done ere long to provide for their wants. With all these, and the various other means which the colony affords for enjoying health-giving exercises, it ought to be possible to reduce the deteriorating effects of the climate to a minimum; if not to neutralize them.

lize them altogether." Sir William Robinson, who evidently takes a very keen interest in education, has shown that he quite appreciates the importance of the physical aspect of the subject, a fact of which a firm proof was given by his presence at the V.R.C.'s little entertainment of last night, and by his encouraging words. Such entertainments, we need hardly say, deserve all the encouragement most which can be given to them, and it is certainly a gratifying thing to find that the head of the Government of the colony holds that opinion.

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**TELEGRAMS.**

[SUPPLIED TO THE "CHINA MAIL".]

(Via Southern Line.)

**FAILURE OF ANOTHER AUSTRALIAN BANK.**

LONDON, April 13, 1893.

The English, Scottish and Australian Chartered Bank has suspended payments on its Australian deposits are Four Million Sterling and its British deposits One Million. Hopes are entertained that it will be reconstructed.

**EGYPT.**

The Anti-British press in Egypt is exultant over the arrival of the French Squadron and regards this event as of the

**COREA.**

The American Government has ordered a man-of-war to proceed to Corea in consequence of the receipt of an official dispatch intimating that a rising against the whites was threatened.

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Ax alleged discovery at Naples of a beautiful authentic portrait by Titian of Christopher Columbus has caused a great sensation there. The whole, with the exception of the face and hands, had been coarsely painted over. This extraneous coat being removed the figure in the uniform of a Spanish admiral was revealed. The pose and coloring were very quiet, the figure in that of a man with pale

turning gray. The eyes are blue, thoughtful, and even sad; the mouth is firmly set, and he wears a pointed, short blonde beard and moustache.







